

# LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

## 23 FEBRUARY 2021

Lent Devotion/Day 7/Tuesday, February 23, 2021

CAIAPHUS

... in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. Luke 3:2

**Meditation:** Joseph Caiaphas "married the boss's daughter," which was the way to get ahead in those days. Has anything changed? With his father-in-law Annas covering him, Caiaphas enjoyed a long high priesthood of eighteen years. Running the Temple in Jerusalem was a family enterprise for Annas, who received kickbacks on everything sold at the Temple bazaars. Pilgrims would exchange their native currency for the sacred half-shekel Temple dues, at a big profit for moneychangers and Annas' family.

Christians, understandably, do not have favorable opinions of Annas or Caiaphas, who led the prosecution against Jesus, but the two fare no better in Jewish tradition. "Woe to the house of Annas," warns the Talmud, "woe to their serpent-like hissing." Caiaphas, however, unknowingly provided a powerful witness to the truth and accuracy of the Gospels. In November of 1990, his bones were discovered inside an ossuary inscribed with his name, a stone chest for human bones after the flesh decomposed. This was the first time the bones of a biblical personality had been discovered.

**Prayer:** *We are grateful, O God, for the blessings of archaeology, which so often provides physical evidence of the truth of the Gospels. "The stones cry out," supporting the true, detailed history of the New Testament. Help us never doubt its credibility. Amen.*

-from **Faithful Facts for Lent**, Paul L. Maier, Creative Communications for the Parish.